

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7608

NODIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, OCTOBER 6

1. MY WIFE AND I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN HIS HOSPITAL ROOM THIS MORNING AT HIS REQUEST. HE WAS IN FINE SPIRITS AND SEEMED PHYSICALLY MUCH RESTED SINCE THE DAY HE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL LAST FRIDAY. HE AND HIS DOCTOR, WAS WAS PRESENT INTERMITTENTLY, CONFIRMED THAT HE IS SUFFERING FROM A RECURRENCE OF PERICARDITIS, AN INFLAMMATION OF THE HEART LINING, THE SAME AILMENT WHICH AFFLICTED HIM AT THE END OF MAY. APPARENTLY THIS CONDITION IS READILY TREATED WITH DRUGS, BUT IS SUBJECT TO RECURRENCE.

2. DR LANIADO, HIS PHYSICIAN, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE CARDIOLOGY UNIT AT ICHILOV HOSPITAL, SAID HE WAS NOW CONFIDENT THAT MY MEETING WITH BEGIN LAST FRIDAY WAS NOT THE CAUSE OF HIS ILLNESS, SINCE IT HAD CLEARLY BEGUN SOME DAYS EARLIER. BEGIN TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN COMPLAINING TO HIS DOCTOR FOR ABOUT A WEEK THAT "HE JUST DID NOT FEEL RIGHT". SINCE NONE OF THEIR TESTS SHOWED ANYTHING WRONG, THEY "KEPT TELLING HIM HE WAS MISTAKEN". HE WILL NOW REMAIN IN THE
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HOSPITAL UNTIL TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, IN ORDER TO HAVE ADDITIONAL TREATMENT WHICH MAY HELP TO PRECLUDE RECURRENCE OF THE CONDITION.

3. BEGIN HAS TALKED FREQUENTLY WITH DAYAN BY TELEPHONE DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS. HE SEEMS PLEASED WITH THE DRAFT WORKING PAPER WHICH WAS AGREED BE-

TWEEN DAYAN AND THE SECRETARY TUESDAY NIGHT, BUT UNDERSTANDS THAT IT MAY NOT PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE ARABS AND THAT FURTHER MODIFICATIONS MAY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. THUS FAR, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER EHRlich AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE HURWITZ ARE THE ONLY TWO CABINET MEMBERS WHO HAVE SEEN THE TEXT OF THE WORKING PAPER. (HURWITZ HAPPENED TO BE VISITING BEGIN'S HOSPITAL ROOM WHEN HE WAS BRIEFING EHRlich.) BEGIN SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD THE TEXT VERY TIGHT. HE AND I AGREED THAT THE PRESS STORIES ABOUT THE WORKING PAPER NOW APPEARING HERE ARE WILDLY SPECULATIVE AND WRONG IN MANY DETAILS. I DO NOT THINK THERE HAS BEEN ANY LEAK FROM HERE, AT LEAST THUS FAR.

4. BEGIN CONFIRMED THAT DAYAN WILL RETURN TUESDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 11, FROM NEW YORK. THE REGULAR SUNDAY CABINET MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR 6 PM, TUESDAY EVENING, AT WHICH TIME DAYAN WILL EXPLAIN IN DETAIL TO HIS COLLEAGUES ABOUT HIS NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK AND THEIR OUTCOME. BEGIN SAID THAT HE AND DAYAN WOULD WANT TO SEE ME THE FOLLOWING MORNING, OCTOBER 12, TO GIVE ME THEIR FORMAL RESPONSE. IT IS CLEAR, THEREFORE, THAT WE WILL HAVE NOTHING FURTHER FROM THE ISRAELIS UNTIL THAT TIME.

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TM AS WE LEFT, BEGIN EXPRESSED WITH CONSIDERABLE EMOTION HIS PLEASURE AT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND THE GREAT COURTESY AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS DISPLAYED TO DAYAN. WE AGREED THAT WHILE MANY PROBLEMS OBVIOUSLY STILL REMAIN, SOME IMPORTANT MISUNDERSTANDINGS HAVE BEEN DISPELLED AND GOOD PROGRESS TOWARD GENEVA HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. LEWIS

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